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LEE, JOHN M.: Papers, 1934-2000

Accession 04-15
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The papers of Admiral John M. Lee were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by his daughter Catherine B. Donich in July 2004.

Linear feet:	4
Approximate number of pages:	7200
Approximate number of items:	5000

Admiral Lee's daughters, Catherine Lee Donich and Susan G. Lee signed an instrument of gift for the papers in May 2006. Literary rights in the writings of John M. Lee in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

Scope and Content Note

John Marshall Lee, known as “Squidge” to his friends, was born in California in 1914 and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935. He served in the South Pacific during World War II and held a number of naval positions throughout the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s he commanded the Amphibious Force of the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific, worked in the offices of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Assistant Secretary of Defense, and was assigned to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and NATO. From 1970 to 1973 he was Deputy Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), working under Director Gerard Smith.

In 1973 Lee retired from the Navy with the rank of Vice Admiral. He settled in St. Petersburg, Florida, and became active in various groups that opposed the use of nuclear weapons. Drawing on his experiences at NATO and the ACDA, he traveled widely making speeches and writing articles on the general philosophy behind nuclear weapons. Lee died in Montana in 2003.

The papers of Admiral Lee pertain mostly to his advocacy of nuclear arms control after his retirement. The material has been divided into four series. The first series contains fragmentary records dating from his naval career. Included are speeches, articles and research papers he compiled; a log of orders he issued while serving as captain of the USS Benner during 1951 and 1952; and miscellaneous orders, citations and correspondence.

The second series contains correspondence, itineraries and programs relating to Lee’s trips to conferences and speaking engagements. The third series contains the texts of Lee’s speeches and articles opposing the use of nuclear weapons.

The fourth series consists primarily of Lee’s social correspondence and miscellaneous printed material he collected. Of particular interest is his correspondence with Mary Travers, vocalist of the famed singing group Peter, Paul and Mary. Lee also kept in touch with his former supervisor Gerard C. Smith. A few letters that Smith received from Lee are in the Gerard Smith papers at the Eisenhower Library.

Chronology

14 Oct 1914	Born in San Francisco, California
1935	Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy
1935-59	Sea assignments, U.S. Navy
1957	Graduated from National War College
1959-61	Director, Politico-Military Policy Division, Office of Chief of Naval Operations
1961-63	Director, Policy Planning Staff, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense
1963-65	Commander, Amphibious Group I and Amphibious Force of Seventh Fleet
1965-66	Director of Naval Warfare Analysis, Office of Chief of Naval Operations
1966-67	Deputy US Representative to NATO Military Command
1967-69	Vice Director, International Military Staff, NATO
1969-70	Vice Chairman, Military Staff Committee, US Delegation to the United Nations
1970-73	Assistant Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
April 1973	Retired from the Navy
1970s-1990s	Active in organizations lobbying against use of nuclear weapons
11 Sept 2003	Died in Ennis, Montana

Series Description

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Series</u>
1	<p>I. Early Material. 1934-73. ½ box.</p> <p>Fragmentary speeches, reports and memorabilia from the period of Lee's active naval service.</p>
1-4	<p>II. Speaking and Conference Trips. 1980-89. 3 boxes.</p> <p>Correspondence, itineraries, programs and memorabilia relating to trips Lee took for the purpose of giving speeches and attending conferences. Most of the material relates to Lee's interest in organizations opposed to the use of nuclear weapons.</p>
4-7	<p>III. Speeches and Articles. 1973-2000. 3 boxes.</p> <p>Information on speeches and articles prepared by Lee during his retirement years. Most of the material relates to Lee's opposition to nuclear weapons.</p>
7-10	<p>IV. Subject File. 1974-97. 3½ boxes.</p> <p>Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous printed material.</p>

Container List

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<p>Items Transferred</p> <p>Series I: Early Material</p> <p>Active Duty Speeches (1)-(5) [1967-72 speeches re NATO strategy, arms control and disarmament talks, UN peacekeeping forces]</p> <p>Articles</p> <p>Battle of Philippine Sea (1)(2) [draft of 1949 research paper on events leading to June 1944 battle; role of Raymond Spruance & Arleigh Burke]</p> <p>Captain's Night Order Book 1951-52 [handwritten log of USS Benner kept by Lee; sailing in Mediterranean & return to US, 9 June-4 Oct 1951; along US Atlantic coast and Caribbean, 11 Feb-6 June 1952]</p> <p>Correspondence & Citations</p> <p>Future Role of the U.S. Navy 1957 [research paper for National War College]</p> <p>Miscellaneous Material</p> <p>Series II: Speaking & Conference Trips</p> <p>1980 Sept. 21-26 Detroit</p> <p>1981 May 2-22 MX Tour [protests against MX missile system]</p> <p>1981 (Misc.)</p> <p>1982 Jan. 15-16 Frankfurt</p> <p>1982 Feb. 25-27 Vienna</p> <p>1982 Mar. 29-Apr. 2 CFR Tour</p> <p>1982 Apr. 17 Portland, Ore.</p> <p>1982 Apr. 24-25 Detroit</p>

2

1982 June 3-6 Bad Boll
1982 Oct. 9 Eugene, Ore.
1982 Oct. 2 & 23 Boston & San Francisco Lawyers
1982 Nov. 9-11 Atlanta-Anniston
1982 (Misc.) [Bulgaria]
1983 April 16 Chicago
1983 Nov. 4 Tulsa
1983 Nov. 12-25 Moscow
1983 Dec. 3-5 San Francisco
1983 Dec. 9 Geneva
1983 (Misc.) (1)(2)
1984 April 12-17 Bonn & Loccum
1984 May 5-6 Winnipeg
1984 Aug. Moscow [George McGovern]
1984 Oct. Midwest Pre-election Swing
1984 (Misc.) (1)(2)

3

1985 Feb. 4-11 Korea (1)(2) [South Korean dissidents; Mary Travers]
1985 March 31 Palm Beach
1985 April 13 Cleveland
1985 May 3-5 Wingspread Conference
1985 May 24-26 Geneva
1985 June 23-Aug 2 Western Trip
1985 Sept. European Trip [Niels Bohr centennial]

1985 Nov. 15-17 Geneva Summit

1986 Jan. 8-10 New York

1986 Jan. 22 Temple Beth-El

1986 Jan. 24-25 Boston

1986 Feb. 6-7 Detroit & Cleveland

1986 Mar. 2-6 London [study of London civil defense]

1986 March 24-25 Washington

1986 May Bulgaria

1986 June 22-26 Asuncion [political harassment in Paraguay]

1986 Sept. 21-25 Seattle-Tacoma

1986 Oct. 5-7 Ormond Beach

1986 Oct. 9-12 Italy

1986 Nov. 10-11 Cornell

1986 Dec. 2-13 Taiwan/Seoul

1986 (Misc.)

1987 April 5-7 Washington

1987 April 21-22 First General's Conference

1987 Apr. 30-May 1 Boston

1987 Oct. 1-5 Altamura Pugwash

4 1987 Dec. 1-2 Washington, DC Trip [nuclear deterrence in Europe]

1987 (Misc.)

1988 May 25 Washington, DC Trip

1988 May 31 Eastman Radio Show (WTKN)

1988 July 3 Terry Reunion [crew of USS Terry; history of ship in World War II and Iwo Jima campaign]

1988 July 14-25 Second Generals Conference, Moscow

1988 Oct. 28 Raleigh, NC, Radio Show

1989 April 6-7 Dean Acheson Conference

1989 May 2-3 Washington Conference

Series III: Speeches and Articles

1973 Dec. 5 UN Peacekeeping

1974 June 27 Naval War College Current Strategy Forum

1978 (Misc.)

1979 Feb. 8 Wayne State

1979 Sept. 9 Temple Beth-El [SALT II treaty]

1979 Fall Foreign Affairs article

1979 Oct. 21 Temple Beth-El (1)(2) [SALT II treaty]

1979 (Misc.)

1980 Feb. 16 Leesburg, Va.

1980 April-May [MX missile program]

1980 (Misc.)

1981 April-May Preventing Nuclear War

1981 Sept. 20

1981 Sept. 24

1981 Nov. 7 & 11

1981 Dec. 17 Navy League

1981 (Misc.)

1982 March

1982 April 16

1982 April 17 & 24

1982 June 5 Bad Boll, Ger.

1982 Sept. 20 Kalamazoo

1982 (Misc.)

1983 April 16 Chicago

1983 June 15 New York City

1983 Aug. 12 & 25

1983 Oct. 29

1983 Nov. 4

1983 Dec. 3

1983 Dec. 8-10 Geneva Speech

1983 (Misc.)

1984 Feb. 13 Committee on Foreign Relations

1984 March Scientific American

1984 April 13-15

1984 May 5-6 Winnipeg Speeches

1984 Oct.

1984 (Misc.)

1985 March 31

1985 April 13

1985 May 3

1985 July 16

1985 Sept. 26 & 30 Denmark

1985 Sept. 27-29 Neils Bohr Centennial

1985 (Misc.)

1986 Jan. 22 Remarks at Temple Beth-El

1986 Jan. 25 Boston Museum of Science

1986 May 14 Article

1986 Sept. 27 UUSC Florida Speech

1986 Oct. 5 Bethune-Cookman College

1986 Oct. 6 Ormond Beach, Fla.

1986 Nov. 10 Cornell

1986 (Misc.)

1987

1988

1989

7 1990 (1)(2) [Gulf War; need for NATO after collapse of communism]

1991

1992

1993-2000

Series IV: Subject File

Abolition of Nuclear Weapons 1996-97

Addresses (1)(2)

Berlin Crisis Oral History 1991 (1)-(6) [history of 1961-62 Berlin Crisis, compiled by historians at University of Maryland; includes chronology; copies of articles & pages from books; copies of relevant documents from various archives]

Biography

Correspondence 1975-82

8 Correspondence 1983 [relocation planning in New Mexico]

Correspondence 1984

Correspondence 1985 (1)(2)

Correspondence 1986

Correspondence 1987 (1)-(3)

Correspondence 1988 (1)(2) [Mary Travers]

Correspondence 1989-94 [Mary Travers]

Kennedy Library Tapes

London Civil Defense

Miscellaneous Notes

9 No First Use Literature (1)(2)

Petition on Nuclear Naval Weapons 1991 (1)(2) [letters from admirals re need for nuclear weapons on ships; Gene Fluckey re hazing incident at Naval Academy, limited war orders in Vietnam]

Printed Material (1)(2)

Speeches, Articles & Conferences List 1974-89

To Unite Our Strength (1)-(3) [book re strengthening UN peacekeeping forces;
letter to Timothy Stanley re organization of Desert Storm forces]

Mary Travers Articles

UN Peacekeeping

10 Oversized Material (suit box)